George Hatch, EdD, LP, EMTP  
Executive Director

Michael Miller, EdD, RN, NRP  
Assistant Director

Patricia Tritt, MA, RN  
Technical Consultant

Jennifer Anderson Warwick, MA  
Accreditation Consultant

COAEMSP / CAAHEP UPDATE
August 17, 2023
Key Initiatives

• Program Director Focus Group
• 2023 CAAHEP *Standards & Guidelines*
• Strategic Plan, 2023-2025
• Douglas K. York Endowed Scholarship
• Data, data, data
Key Initiatives

• Analyzing costs for site visits

• Developing the processes to offer voluntary accreditation services to AEMT programs
Program Directors Focus Group (PDFG)
Go into effect January 1, 2024

On Saturday at 9:15 am, CoAEMSP will host a session on the modifications and implementation timeline
Our Mission
The mission of the CoAEMSP is to advance the quality of EMS education through accreditation.

Our Vision
CoAEMSP is recognized as the leader in evidence-based standards for accreditation.

2023-25 Strategic Plan

Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation.

Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience.

Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces.

Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents.

Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process.

Credible education through accreditation
Credible education through accreditation

Douglas K. York Endowed Scholarship

provide scholarships for program directors committed to high paramedic educational standards to attend ACCREDITCON
Number of Paramedic Programs

August 2023

- CoAEMSP Letter of Review, 123
- CAAHEP Accredited, 633
- Total Programs, 756
Programs by Sponsor Type

Post-Secondary, 553, 76%

Hospital Based, 75, 10%

Government, 49, 7%

Consortium, 54, 7%

Military, 2, 0%

Government
- Ambulance Services
- County/Municipality
- Fire Services

Post-Secondary
- Vocational
- Community College
- Junior College
- Technical College
- College / University

Credible education through accreditation
Self-Study Reports Received in 2022

N = 161

- Continuing, 105, 65%
- Letter of Review, 32, 20%
- Initial, 24, 15%
Site Visits Anticipated in 2023

- Seeking Continuing, 108, 58%
- Seeking Initial, 37, 20%
- Seeking Letter of Review, 40, 22%

N = 185
Programs Awarded Status in 2022

- Letter of Review, 30
- Initial, 5
- 1st Continuing, 20
- Continuing, 9

N = 64
Outcomes Data: from 2023 Annual Reports
Enrollment & Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrolled</th>
<th>Graduated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>17,422</td>
<td>13,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>17,457</td>
<td>13,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>16,397</td>
<td>12,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>17,475</td>
<td>13,796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retention Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Retention (%)</th>
<th>Attrition (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reasons for Attrition in 2021

- Dismissed, 33%
- Withdrawn, 10%
- Medical, 25%
- Personal, 25%
- Financial, 3%
- Other/Academic, 11%
- Other/Unknown, 18%
Examination Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>First Attempt</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Did Not Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Blue: First Attempt
- Orange: Cumulative
- Red: Did Not Pass
Positive Placement Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Education/Military</th>
<th>Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credible education through accreditation
Personnel Changes
Personnel Changes in 2022

- President/CEO, 145, 12%
- Dean, 266, 23%
- Program Director, 269, 23%
- Lead Instructor, 259, 22%
- Medical Director, 112, 9%
- Associate MD, 48, 4%
- Assistant MD, 80, 7%
- Associate MD, 48, 4%

N = 1179
Program Directors: Reasons for Change

- Resigning: 36%
- Reassignment: 23%
- Other: 12%
- Retiring: 12%
- Leave of absence: 2%
- Interim to permanent: 11%
- Interim: 1%
- Unknown: 2%
- Illness: 1%
- Retiring: 12%

Credible education through accreditation
“Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation.” (November 2022)

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) will launch programmatic accreditation at the AEMT level by January 1, 2025, and the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) will provide the accreditation services.
The expert panel considered the evidence related to the value of National EMS Program Accreditation toward student and patient outcomes and encourages collaboration among stakeholder groups for full implementation of national EMS program accreditation at the AEMT level by 2025 (p. 7).
Through the use of collegial evaluation practices and the identification of recognized routines for establishing sound EMS education programs, program accreditation is expected to promote clinical and educational excellence by ensuring the availability of adequate resources and services for educators and their students (p. 19).
AEMT Working Group

CoAEMSP Board Members
- David Becker
- Lori Burns
- Rick Ellis
- Jeff McDonald
- Ritu Sahni

CoAEMSP Staff
- Jennifer Anderson Warwick
- Lisa Collard
- George Hatch
- Randy Kuykendall
- Mike Miller
Key Milestones

- Robust stakeholder engagement & feedback: May–Nov. 2023
- Open public comment period: 4 Dec. 2023
- Public comment period closes: 18 Jan. 2024
- CoAEMSP Board reviews comments and approves final draft: 4 Mar. 2024
- Publish policies & interpretations of the CAAHEP Standards: 1 June 2024
- Make available all documents/materials: 1 Jan. 2025
- Accept LoR applications: 1 Jan. 2025

Credible education through accreditation
Support for Voluntary AEMT Accreditation Services

- National EMS Education Standards for AEMT are inconsistently implemented
- Fragmented with varied state & even local educational approaches
- Poor pass rates on the National Registry AEMT exam is one metric to consider
NREMT Examination Results in 2022

- 1st Attempt:
  - AEMT: 56%
  - Paramedic: 71%
- 3 Cumulative:
  - AEMT: 69%
  - Paramedic: 85%

Voluntary AEMT Accreditation

Credible education through accreditation
Introduction

The 2019 National EMS Scope of Practice Model proposed a movement toward national EMS program accreditation at the advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT) level by 2025. However, little is known concerning the current number of AEMT programs, their exam success rates, and their association with accredited paramedic programs.

Objective

The objective of this study was to evaluate the status of the educational system for AEMT training programs, including program availability and national certification performance.

Methods

Study Design, Setting, & Population

We conducted a cross-sectional evaluation of all AEMT programs with graduates taking the National Registry Cognitive Examination from 2019-2021.

Measures

• First attempt exam pass rates for 2019-2021
• Cumulative third-attempt pass rate for 2019
  • Candidates are allowed to take the exam 3 times within a 2-year time period to try to pass. After the 3rd time, they must take a refresher course.
• Number of AEMT programs verifying paramedic graduates

Analysis

Descriptive statistics were calculated for the total number of AEMT exams administered, the number of AEMT programs verifying candidates, and program first and cumulative third attempt pass rates (%, interquartile range).

Results

Table 1: From 2019-2021, total students who attempted the AEMT Certification examination and their associated first and cumulative third pass rates (median, IQR).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students Attempting AEMT Certification</th>
<th>First Pass Success</th>
<th>Cumulative Third Pass Success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>4,680</td>
<td>56% (44.4, 71.4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>5,279</td>
<td>56% (42.9, 69.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>6,462</td>
<td>55% (40.0, 69.2)</td>
<td>74% (62.5, 87.5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Distribution of AEMT Programs in each NASEMO Region.

Figure 2. Heat map of the number of AEMT programs per state in 2021.

Table 2. Number of AEMT Programs in the US per year from 2019-2021. The total number of programs have consistently increased during the study period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Programs 2019</th>
<th>Programs 2020</th>
<th>Programs 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>395</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33% affiliated with paramedic programs

Limitations

This study only used candidates who attempted the National Registry Exam and not state-based AEMTs, and our population could be different from the overall national population.

This analysis only examined the first three attempts on the National Certification Exam and did not examine those who took a refresher course and had up to three additional attempts at National Certification.

Conclusion

The number of programs providing AEMT certification and candidates seeking AEMT certification increased from 2019-2021.

Only 33% of AEMT programs graduating students were affiliated with an accredited paramedic program and are, therefore, familiar with accreditation processes.

Future work will need to evaluate the possible educational and operational gaps for voluntary accreditation.
Two Pathways

AEMT Accreditation

- Existing CAAHEP or LoR program
- New & Standalone AEMT program
- Abbreviated application
  - Application
    - LoR SSR
    - Preliminary SV
Value of Accreditation

- Strengthens profession by establishing national standards
- Well-prepared and qualified workforce
- Potential for improved certification exam performance
- Framework to assess program resources and engage CQI
- Employers have access to entry-level competent graduates
- Public protection
Accreditation is an everyday activity. Maintenance
COME SAY HELLO!

COAEMSP @NAEMSE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

George Hatch
Mike Miller
Patricia Tritt
Jennifer Anderson Warwick

2023 NAEMSE EMS EDUCATOR SYMPOSIUM & TRADE SHOW
Reno, Nevada
August 14-19, 2023

BOOTH #214